

This record is a partial extract of the original cable. The full text of the original cable is not available.

091246Z Aug 00

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ACTION AF-00

INFO	LOG-00	AMAD-00	A-00	EUR-00	UTED-00	TEDE-00	INR-00
	IO-00	LAB-01	AC-01	OIC-02	ACE-00	SSO-00	SS-00
	IAP-00	USIE-00	IIP-00	DRL-02	SAS-00	/006W	
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FM AMEMBASSY HARARE  
TO SECSTATE WASHDC IMMEDIATE 6804  
INFO AMEMBASSY WINDHOEK  
AMEMBASSY PRETORIA  
AMEMBASSY LUSAKA  
AMEMBASSY MAPUTO  
AMEMBASSY KINSHASA  
AMEMBASSY LILONGWE  
AMEMBASSY GABORONE  
AMEMBASSY LONDON

UNCLAS HARARE 004445

SIPDIS

DEPT FOR AF, AF/S, AF/PD, INR/R/MR

E.O. 12958: N/A

TAGS: [ZI](#) [OIIP](#)

SUBJECT: MEDIA REPORT: OFFICIAL MEDIA SPIN SADC SUMMIT  
DECLARATION ON ZIMBABWE DEMOCRACY ACT

- [1](#)1. GOVERNMENT OF ZIMBABWE-CONTROLLED MEDIA, THE HERALD  
NEWSPAPER AND THE ZIMBABWE BROADCASTING CORPORATION  
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PAGE 02 HARARE 04445 091251Z  
(ZBC), ARE SPINNING THE RESULTS OF THE JUST-ENDED  
SOUTHERN AFRICAN DEVELOPMENT COMMUNITY (SADC) SUMMIT IN  
WINDHOEK. THE ANGLE TAKEN BY BOTH MEDIA OUTLETS GIVES  
PROMINENCE TO SADC CONDEMNATION OF THE ZIMBABWE  
DEMOCRACY ACT (ZDA). GOVERNMENT MEDIA ALSO REPORT THAT  
SADC LEADERS GAVE UNEQUIVOCAL SUPPORT TO ZIMBABWE'S  
LAND REFORM PROGRAM.

- [1](#)2. ZBC TELEVISION AND RADIO LED THEIR AUGUST 8 PRIME-TIME  
NEWSCASTS WITH STATEMENTS BY NEWS READERS THAT THE  
SUMMIT "CONDEMNED" THE ZDA, PASSED BY THE SENATE IN  
JUNE AND CURRENTLY AWAITING HOUSE ACTION. A VIDEO  
REPORT BY THE ZBC REPORTER IN WINDHOEK MADE CLEAR,  
HOWEVER, THAT SADC'S CONCERN OVER THE ZDA WAS NOT AT  
THE TOP OF THE SUMMIT AGENDA. OF THE ROUGHLY 3-MINUTE  
VIDEO OF SADC SPOKESMAN RAMSAMY READING THE SUMMIT  
DECLARATION, ONLY ABOUT 10 SECONDS WAS RELATED TO THE  
ZDA. THE VIDEO WAS EDITED TO GIVE RAMSAMY'S STATEMENT  
ON ZDA GREATER PROMINENCE.

- [1](#)3. THE AUGUST 9 EDITION OF THE GOVERNMENT-OWNED "HERALD"  
DAILY NEWSPAPER GAVE PROMINENT PAGE-ONE COVERAGE TO THE  
SADC SUMMIT STATEMENTS ON LAND REFORM AND THE ZDA.  
HEADLINED "SADC LEADERS BACK LAND PROGRAMME," THE SUB-  
HEAD READ "BRITAIN CALLED UPON TO HONOUR OBLIGATIONS --  
SUMMIT CONDEMNS US CONGRESS BILL." THE ARTICLE GAVE THE  
APPEARANCE THAT THE SADC SUMMIT CONCERNED ITSELF ONLY  
WITH THESE TWO ISSUES. NO OTHER SADC BUSINESS WAS  
MENTIONED IN THE ARTICLE. THE ARTICLE EXCERPTED THE  
SECTIONS OF THE SUMMIT DECLARATION DEALING WITH LAND  
REFORM AND THE ZDA, AND DREW ON STATEMENTS FROM UNNAMED  
"SADC LEADERS."

- [1](#)4. ZIMBABWEANS WHO RELY ONLY ON GOVERNMENT MEDIA FOR THEIR  
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NEWS (A DWINDLING NUMBER OF PEOPLE) WOULD COME TO THE  
CONCLUSION THAT THE PRIMARY PURPOSE OF THE SADC SUMMIT  
WAS TO SLAM THE UK FOR ITS FAILURE TO SUPPORT  
ZIMBABWE'S VERSION OF LAND REFORM AND BERATE THE US FOR  
CONSIDERING CONDITIONAL ASSISTANCE TO ZIMBABWE.

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